

PAT-1267-DIV

Prior Application Serial No. 09/286,800

Prior Examiner: Robert Canfield

Prior Art Unit: 3635

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of )  
YU ZHENG )  
Serial No.: Filed Herewith )  
Filing Date: Filed Herewith )  
For: COLLAPSIBLE SUPPORT FRAMES )

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please enter the following preliminary amendments before calculating the filing fee:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, please replace the "Related Cases" section with the following:

--This is a division of co-pending Serial No. 09/286,800, entitled "Collapsible Support Frames", filed April 6, 1999, whose disclosures are incorporated by this reference as though fully set forth herein.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-21 without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims:

--22. (New) An object, comprising:  
a support frame having a foldable frame member that has a folded and an unfolded orientation, the frame member defining a periphery for the support frame;  
a frame retaining sleeve for retaining the frame member; and  
a covering placed over but not enclosing the support frame, the covering being separate and removable from the support frame.

23. (New) The object of claim 22, wherein the support frame is a first support frame, the object further including:

a second support frame having a foldable frame member that has a folded and an unfolded orientation, the frame member defining a periphery for the second support frame;

wherein the first and second support frames are hingedly coupled to each other; and

wherein the covering is placed over the first and second support frames.

24. (New) The object of claim 22, wherein the support frame is a first support frame, the object further including:

a second support frame, a third support frame, and a fourth support frame, each having a left side, a right side, and a foldable frame member that has a folded and an unfolded orientation, the frame member defining a periphery for the respective support frame;

wherein the left side of each support frame is hingedly coupled to the right of an adjacent support frame to define an enclosed space; and

wherein the covering is placed over the first, second, third and fourth support frames to cover the enclosed space.

25. (New) An object, comprising:

a support frame having a foldable frame member that has a folded and an unfolded orientation, the frame member defining a periphery for the support frame; and

a covering placed over but not enclosing the support frame, the covering being separate and removable from the support frame;

wherein the frame member is collapsible to the folded position by twisting and folding to form a plurality of concentric rings to substantially reduce the size of the support frame in the folded position.

26. (New) The object of claim 25, wherein the support frame is a first support frame, the object further including:

a second support frame having a foldable frame member that has a folded and an unfolded orientation, the frame member defining a periphery for the second support frame;

wherein the first and second support frames are hingedly coupled to each other;

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